



JAN 2 9 2003

TC 1700

ITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

S/N 09/858,267

TATSUMI et al.

Examiner:

SPITZER, R.

Serial No.:

09/858,267

Group Art Unit:

1724

Filed:

15 May 2001

Docket No.:

12109.44US01

Title:

ADSORBENT, ADSORPTION COLUMN AND APPARATUS FOR

PRESSURE SWING ADSORPTION SEPARATION

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

'Express Mail' mailing label number: EV143561765US

Date of Deposit: 23 January 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indigated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By:

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.114, it is respectfully requested that this application be accorded the benefits of Continued Examination. Applicant respectfully requests that the amendment filed herewith be entered at this time.

Our check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the required fee for a large entity.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

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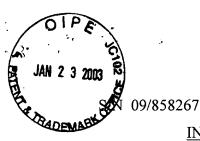
Dated: 23 January 2003

Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No. 29,165

CBH:hjh

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Robert H. Spitzer

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<u>AMENDMENT</u>

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendment before examination and consideration of this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) application filed herewith.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are amended in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. No new matter has been added.

6. (Amended) An adsorption column apparatus for separating and collecting oxygen from an air by a pressure swing adsorption separation process comprising:

an air blower;

two adsorption columns each connected to the air blower, the adsorption columns each having an adsorbent packed therein;

a surge tank connected with the two adsorption columns that collects discharged oxygen gas from the adsorption columns to be discharged as product;